IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1.   (Original) A scrambling unit for a digital audiovisual transmission system, the scrambling unit comprising an input for receiving an assembled transport packet stream from a physically separate multiplexer, a scrambling device for scrambling the received transport stream according to a randomising control word and an output for sending the scrambled transport stream to a transmitter means for subsequent transmission, so as to permit the scrambling of the transport packet stream by the scrambling unit independently of the multiplexer operations.

2.   (Currently Amended) The A scrambling unit as claimed in claim 1, in which the scrambling device is adapted to carry out scrambling on some or all of the payload of selected packets of the transport stream packet.

3.   (Currently Amended) The A scrambling unit as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a packet insertion means for inserting transport packet data in the transport stream.

4.   (Currently Amended) The A scrambling unit as claimed in claim 3, in which the packet insertion means inserts a packet of data in the transport stream by detecting the

presence of a null packet and replacing a null packet by the packet to be inserted.

5.   (Currently Amended) The A scrambling unit as claimed in claim 1, further comprising packet filter means for identifying and copying to a memory part or all of a predetermined transport packet.

6.   (Currently Amended) The A scrambling unit as claimed in claim 1, further comprising packet deletion means for deleting a predetermined packet or set of packets.

7.   (Currently Amended) The A scrambling unit as claimed in claim 6, wherein the packet deletion means deletes a packet by transforming the packet ID of the packet to that of a null packet.

8.   (Currently Amended) The A scrambling unit as claimed in claim 1, further comprising packet counting means for counting the number of packets of a predetermined packet ID value in the received transport data stream.

9.   (Currently Amended) The A scrambling unit as claimed in claim 1, further comprising packet ID re-mapping means for changing the packet ID value assigned to a

predetermined packet or set of packets.

10.   (Previously Presented) A scrambling system comprising a scrambling unit as claimed in claim 1 together with central control means for generating a control word sent to and received by the scrambling unit for scrambling the transport stream.

11.   (Currently Amended) The A scrambling system as claimed in claim 10, further comprising one or more access control systems connected to the central control means and adapted to receive a control word supplied by the central control means and to send back to the central control means an encrypted message containing the control word.

12.   (Currently Amended) The A scrambling system as claimed in claim 10, in which some or all of the data sent from the central control means to the scrambling unit is authenticated by the central control means by generation of a signature in accordance with a secret encryption key.

13.   (Currently Amended) The A scrambling system as claimed in any of claims 10, comprising a plurality of scrambling units and associated central control means associated with the generation of a single transport stream.

14.   (Currently Amended) The A scrambling system as claim in any of claims 10, in

which the ~~or each~~ scrambling unit is adapted to store its working configuration characteristics and/or the current control word value.

15. and 16. (Cancelled)